

PATENT  
Serial No. 09/866,394  
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of December 1, 2003

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as shown in the enclosed Replacement  
Abstract.

REPLACEMENT ABSTRACT

For use in a system capable of creating visual summaries of video material, there is disclosed an ~~improved~~ apparatus and method for creating a compact visual summary of video material. In one ~~advantageous embodiment~~, the apparatus of ~~the present invention~~ ~~comprises~~ includes a visual summary controller that is ~~capable of~~ configured for receiving keyframes of video material, and ~~capable of~~ extracting frame signatures from the keyframes, and ~~capable of~~ using the frame signatures to create superhistograms from the keyframes, and ~~capable of~~ using the frame signatures and the superhistograms to create a compact visual summary of the video material. The visual summary controller uses the superhistograms to filter and cluster the keyframes, and adds representative keyframes from the clustered keyframes to the compact visual summary. A visual summary retrieval module retrieves and displays a the compact visual summary in response to a user request.